Verso Paper Corp. Form 3 May 12, 2008

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0104

Expires:

response...

January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting

Person *

ZAKEN JORDAN C

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Statement

(Month/Day/Year)

05/12/2008

2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Verso Paper Corp. [VRS]

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

5. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

C/O APOLLO

MANAGEMENT, L.P., 9 WEST 57TH STREET

(Street)

10% Owner _X_ Director

Officer Other (give title below) (specify below)

(Check all applicable)

6. Individual or Joint/Group

Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting

Person

Form filed by More than One

Reporting Person

NEW YORK. NYÂ 10019

(City) (State) (Zip)

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

(Instr. 4)

3. Ownership

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

(Instr. 5)

Form: Direct (D)

or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially

owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security

2. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying **Derivative Security**

5. 4 Conversion or Exercise

6. Nature of Indirect Ownership Beneficial Ownership Form of (Instr. 5)

(Instr. 4)

Amount or Number of

Derivative Price of Derivative Security: Security Direct (D)

(Instr. 4)

Date **Expiration Title** Exercisable Date

Shares

or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

ZAKEN JORDAN C C/O APOLLO MANAGEMENT, L.P. 9 WEST 57TH STREET

ÂX Â

NEW YORK, NYÂ 10019

Signatures

/s/ Peter H. Kesser, attorney in fact

05/12/2008

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

No securities are beneficially owned

- If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).
- Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Â

Remarks:

See Exhibit 24 - Confirming Statement

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

Reporting Owners 2